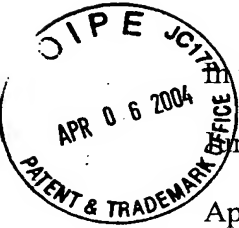


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Patent Application of:

Shin TAKEDA et al.

Application Number: 10/688,907

Filed: October 21, 2003

For: OPTICAL FIBER SPLICING
INSTRUMENT WITH SHUTTER

Examiner Not yet assigned

Group Art Unit 2872

Confirmation No. 3754

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants are submitting herewith copies of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (modified) for consideration and to be made of record by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) in the above-captioned patent application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider these references and that the Examiner indicate that the enclosed references have been considered in this application by returning a copy of the form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609.

The European Patent Office (EPO) cited the enclosed references in a European Search Report dated March 1, 2004, for a counterpart application, and the EPO has indicated on the enclosed copy the relevance of each reference of the Search Report.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), Applicants believe that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted prior to issuance of a first Office Action on the merits.

Therefore, no fees are believed due as a result of this submission. However, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the PTO, please charge any such variance to undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Dated: April 6, 2004

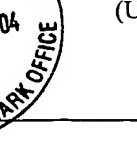
Baker Botts L.L.P.
The Warner, Suite 1300
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2400
(202) 639-7700 (telephone)
(202) 639-7890 (facsimile)

By: 

James B. Arpin
Registration No. 33,470

JBA/dh

Enclosures

FORM PTO-1449 (Modified) (REV. 7-80)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 074913.0105		APPLICATION NO. 10/688,907	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: left;">  </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT</p> <p>(Use several sheets if necessary)</p> </div> </div>				APPLICANT Jun Takeda <u>et al.</u>			
				FILING DATE October 14, 2003		GROUP 2872	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS													
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		4	7	7	5	3	2	7	10/4/88	Normann <u>et al.</u>			
		5	2	7	4	7	2	2	12/28/93	Saitoh <u>et al.</u>			
		5	3	6	3	4	6	0	11/8/94	Marazzi <u>et al.</u>			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS															
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION		
		2	1	1	2	1	7	3	7/13/83	United Kingdom				YES	NO
		0	8	9	3	7	1	6	1/27/99	Europe					x
		1	0	6	7	4	1	6	1/10/01	Europe (with abstract)				x	
		10	3	0	0	9	8	5	11/13/98	Japan (with abstract)					x

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)	
	European Search Report, dated March 1, 2004

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.